

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
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Dr. Erna Gunther,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Washington.

Oct. 29, 1954

Dear Dr. Gunther:

I am enclosing a clipping for your general information.

As requested by the PUD manager, I visited Priest Rapids by appointment taking with me one of the head men of the Wanapums.

We attempted to be cooperative in every way to expedite getting the exploratory work under way. A proviso of the Federal Power Commission related to the protection of the Wanapum burial places and historical relics. It was necessary to mark the places so the contract could get under way, and to go over other matters.

I made the suggestion upon request of the Indians that unknown graves, if accidentally uncovered, be preserved for re-burial in a safe location. The Indians understand that if prehistoric finds of note are uncovered that you and Dr. Osborne, according to your wishes, will be notified so you may make an examination and I have acquainted the PUD with this thought. I do not anticipate that much will be brought to light in the earlier work, but if the license to construct a dam is granted, it might be different. And I will confer with you that material of this type should be preserved.

I think you will agree that cooperation of the type extended by these people, the P.R. Indians, is rare along the river when it comes to building dams.

I do not believe that the planners are as aware of historical significance of material in this instance as those with extensive past experience, but perhaps I am wrong. At least I ~~xxxxxxx~~ attempted to impress that thought upon them.

Any work of the nature along the river, as you know, is followed by a rush of grave digging by unauthorized persons. If you and Dr. Osborne will be so kind as to give me some factual citations...the law.. I will give it due publicity without drawing the UW into it in any way, to halt this. In fact if anything particular develops, I shall see that the sheriff moves in fast, so a briefing will be appreciated.

The engineers have already located several pillaged graves. And I have my suspicions concerning these which I will discuss with you later.

For your own information I do not believe that the dam, as contemplated, would result in much of a displacement upstream as far as Vantage but I am sure that when the facts are known to the planners, they will be glad to let you know of the various low water levels, etc.

If you will let me know of the procedure you wish followed in event of

the discovery of any likely looking prehistoric or deep level sites, I shall transmit the information to the proper PUD authority so it may be acknowledged.

They are to sink some 25 cores, vertical and angular. Many of them will be on the island opposite P'na, the island called Anhyi by the Wanapums and Whale Island by the Rock Hounds. One barge will be located in the river for beneath-water drilling. Another will be used in connection with work on the island. These barges will not be in use for several weeks and work will continue until next May sometime.

It seems to me likely that the contractor would permit a "safe" conduct visit to this island by you or Dr. Orsborne or some graduate student. The historical relics referred to include some of the rocks on the island that relate to the genesis of the "anapums. Here too no hardship will be imposed upon the PUD, the contractor etc. as far as the "anapums are concerned. Your advice and counsel regarding some of this material may be solicited in this regard in the future.

I hope I have given you some information and that I may be of service to you if you suggest.

Sincerely

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